Promotion of Tourism in Kashmir

1710. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to urge European countries to lift travel advisory to promote tourism in the country especially in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps Government are taking to woo the foreign tourists to visit the valley and other tourist places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, through its overseas offices, Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Missions abroad, takes up the matter regarding lifting of travel advisories, as and when issued by different countries, to promote tourism in the country, including Kashmir.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism, through the India tourism offices overseas, undertakes a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas to attract foreign tourists to visit tourist places in the country, including Kashmir. These include advertising, participation in Fairs and Exhibitions, organizing Seminars, Workshops and Road Shows, publication of Brochures and joint advertising support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Buddhist circuit tours in Bihar and U.P.

1711. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to arrange Buddhist circuit tours in Bihar and U.P.;

(b) if so, what are the special arrangements being made to facilitate tours of foreign tourists, specially tourists from the East; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?